

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) A code-string generating method according to claim 3 [[1]], wherein the first portion of the second code string includes at least one of playback band information and synchronizing signal information.
3. (Currently Amended) A code-string generating method ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:
a generation step of generating a first code string and a second code string from at least part of an original code string obtained by coding a signal, the first code string containing a code string having a low playback quality and the second code string being used for increasing the quality of a playback signal of the first code string; and
an encryption step of encrypting the second code string,
wherein, in said encryption step, a first portion of the second code string having an exact or almost regular pattern is encrypted by a first encryption process, or the first portion is not encrypted, and a second portion, which is part of the second code string other than the first portion, is encrypted by a second encryption process different from the first encryption process, and

wherein part of or all of the first portion is embedded at a position in the first code string which is ignored when the first code string is played back.

4. (Currently Amended) A code-string generating method according to claim 3 [[1]], wherein said generation step includes a replacement step of replacing part of the original code string by dummy data, and the first code string contains the dummy data and the original code which is not replaced by the dummy data, and the second code string contains part of or all of true data of the original code string which is replaced by the dummy data.

5. (Original) A code-string generating method according to claim 4, wherein part of or all of the true data of the original code string, which is different from the true data contained in the second code string, is contained at a position in the first code string and that is different from the dummy data.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A code-string generating apparatus according to claim 8 [[6]], wherein the first portion of the second code string includes at least one of playback band information and synchronizing signal information.

8. (Currently Amended) A code-string generating apparatus ~~according to claim 6,~~
comprising:

generation means for generating a first code string and a second code string
from at least part of an original code string obtained by coding a signal, the first code
string containing a code string having a low playback quality and the second code string
being used for increasing the quality of a playback signal of the first code string; and

encryption means for encrypting the second code string,

wherein, in said encryption means, a first portion of the second code string
having an exact or almost regular pattern is encrypted by a first encryption process, or
the first portion is not encrypted, and a second portion, which is part of the second code
string other than the first portion, is encrypted by a second encryption process different
from the first encryption process, and

wherein part of or all of the first portion is embedded at a position in the first code
string which is ignored when the first code string is played back.

9. (Currently Amended) A code-string generating apparatus according to claim 8
[[6]], wherein said generation means includes replacement means for replacing part of
the original code string by dummy data, and the first code string contains the dummy
data and the original code which is not replaced by the dummy data, and the second
code string contains part of or all of true data of the original code string which is
replaced by the dummy data.

10. (Original) A code-string generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein part of or all of the true data of the original code string, which is different from the true data contained in the second code string, is contained at a position in the first code string and that is different from the dummy data.

11. (Original) A code-string decrypting method comprising:

a first decryption step of decrypting by a first decryption process, or not decrypting, a first encrypted code string corresponding to a first portion of a code string which has an exactly or almost regular pattern before being encrypted; and

a second decryption step of decrypting a second encrypted code string corresponding to a second portion, which is part of the code string other than the first portion, by a second decryption process different from the first decryption process.

12. (Original) A code-string decrypting method according to claim 11, wherein the first encrypted code string and the second encrypted code string are used for increasing the quality of a playback signal of a third code string containing a code string having a low playback quality, and the first and second encrypted code strings and the third code string are generated by performing predetermined processing on at least part of an original code string obtained by coding a signal.

13. (Original) A code-string decrypting method according to claim 11, wherein the first portion includes at least one of playback band information and synchronizing signal information.

14. (Original) A code-string decrypting method according to claim 11, wherein the first portion is embedded at a position in the third code string which is ignored when the first code string is played back.

15. (Original) A code-string decrypting method according to claim 11, further comprising a rearrangement step of rearranging the first encrypted code string and the second encrypted code string according to a predetermined technique before said first and second decryption steps.

16. (Original) A code-string decrypting apparatus comprising:

first decryption means for decrypting by a first decryption process, or for not decrypting, a first encrypted code string corresponding to a first portion of a code string which has an exactly or almost regular pattern before being encrypted; and

second decryption means for decrypting a second encrypted code string corresponding to a second portion, which is part of the code string other than the first portion, by a second decryption process different from the first decryption process.

17. (Original) A code-string decrypting apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the first encrypted code string and the second encrypted code string are used for increasing the quality of a playback signal of a third code string containing a code string having a low playback quality, and the first and second encrypted code strings and the third code

string are generated by performing predetermined processing on at least part of an original code string obtained by coding a signal.

18. (Original) A code-string decrypting apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the first portion includes at least one of playback band information and synchronizing signal information.

19. (Original) A code-string decrypting apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the first portion is embedded at a position in the third code string which is ignored when the first code string is played back.

20. (Original) A code-string decrypting apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the first encrypted code string and the second encrypted code string are rearranged according to a predetermined technique before being input into said first and second decryption means.

21. (Original) A code-string encrypting method comprising the steps of:
separating a code string into a first code-string portion having an exactly or almost regular pattern and a second code-string portion other than the first code-string portion; and
encrypting, or not encrypting, the first code-string portion by a first process, and encrypting the second code-string portion by a second process different from the first process.

22. (Original) A code-string encrypting apparatus comprising means for separating a code string into a first code-string portion having an exactly or almost regular pattern and a second code-string portion other than the first code-string portion, and for encrypting, or not encrypting, the first code-string portion by a first process, and encrypting the second code-string portion by a second process different from the first process.

23. (Original) A recording medium comprising:

a first code-string portion having an exactly or almost regular pattern encrypted or not encrypted by a first process; and

a second code-string portion other than the first code-string portion encrypted by a second process different from the first process.